

USSN: 10/083,953
Atty. Docket No.: 2002B009
Amdt. Dated March 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 27, 2004

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims to this Application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A polymeric film structure having a removable layer, comprising:

a transparent base layer having first and second surfaces, said first surface of said base layer being adapted for placement of indicia thereon;

a cavitated oriented layer comprised of a polymeric material having first and second surfaces, said first surface of said cavitated layer being adhered to said second surface of said base layer along a first interface;

a skin layer having first and second surfaces, said first surface of said skin layer being secured to said second surface of said cavitated layer, said second surface of said skin layer being adapted for printing thereon;

wherein said cavitated oriented layer is cavitated to a degree sufficient to limit viewing of said base layer therethrough and to a degree sufficient to weaken said first interface and allow said cavitated layer to be removed from said base layer; and

wherein said skin layer is formed with a thickness sufficient to protect said cavitated layer during handling while allowing subsequent removal of said cavitated layer.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The film structure according to Claim 1, wherein said cavitated oriented layer includes from about 8% to 50% by weight of a cavitating agent.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The film structure according to Claim 2, wherein said cavitated oriented layer is formed from a polyolefin and has an optical thickness of from about .5 mils to about 3 mils, and wherein said cavitated layer may be scratched away from said base layer.

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Claim 4 (original): The film structure according to Claim 3, wherein said cavitating agent is calcium carbonate having an average particle size of 2 microns and a range of 1 to 10 microns, and wherein said cavitated layer includes from about 15% to about 30% by weight of said calcium carbonate.

Claim 5 (original): The film structure according to Claim 1, wherein said skin layer is formed from a polyolefin and has a thickness of from about .02 mils to about .1 mils.

Claim 6 (original): The film structure according to Claim 5, wherein said skin layer is formed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of propylene-ethylene copolymers, propylene-ethylene-butylene terpolymers and medium density polyethylene, said skin layer having a thickness of from about 0.3 mils to about .05 mils.

Claim 7 (original): The film structure according to Claim 1, further comprising a substrate laminated to said first surface of said base layer, said indicia being printed on said substrate and viewable through said base layer.

Claim 8 (original): The film structure according to Claim 1, wherein said indicia is printed on said first surface of said base layer.

Claim 9 (original): The film structure according to Claim 8, further comprising a layer of opaque ink covering said indicia.

Claim 10 (original): The film structure according to Claim 1, wherein said indicia comprises prize information.

Claim 11 (original): The film structure according to Claim 1, wherein said base layer comprises a plurality of extruded layers.

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Claim 12 (original): The film structure according to Claim 11, wherein said base layer is transparent and is formed from a polyolefin.

Claim 13 (original): The film structure according to Claim 1, wherein said base layer is modified to visibly effect the passage of light therethrough, and wherein said indicia is selected to be viewable through said modified base layer.

Claim 14 (original): The film structure according to Claim 13, wherein said modified base layer is tinted with a preselected color.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The film structure according to Claim 1, wherein said film structure is a biaxially oriented coextruded multi-layer film structure that is stretched from about 3 times to about 7 times in the machine direction and from about 3 times to about 12 times in the transverse direction.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method of manufacturing a "scratch and reveal" device having a removable scratch-off layer, comprising:

- a) co-extruding a multilayer polymeric film structure, said structure including:
 - a base layer having first and second surfaces;
 - a core layer having first and second surfaces and including a predetermined amount of a cavitating agent, said first surface of said core layer being adhered to said second surface of said base layer along a first interface;
 - a skin layer having first and second surfaces, said first surface of said skin layer being adhered to said second surface of said core layer;
- b) stretching said film structure to cavitate said core layer to a degree sufficient to weaken said first interface and allow said cavitated layer to subsequently be scratched away from said base layer; and

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c) securing indicia to said first surface of said base layer whereby said indicia is viewable through said base layer only upon removal of the cavitated layer therefrom.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said securing step includes the steps of: providing a substrate having said indicia printed thereon and laminating said substrate to said first surface of said base layer.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said securing step includes the step of: printing said indicia on said first surface of said base layer and covering said indicia with at least one layer of an opaque material.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of applying print to said skin layer.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said stretching step includes stretching said film structure from about 3 times to about 7 times in the machine direction and from about 3 times to about 12 times in the transverse direction.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said stretching step includes stretching said film structure from about 4 times to about 6 times in the machine direction and from about 7 times to about 9 times in the transverse direction.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 16, wherein said co-extruding step includes the step of modifying said base layer to visibly effect the passage of light therethrough.

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Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of scratching said cavitated layer away from said base layer thereby exposing said indicia.